

a Little Golden Book®

Disney

STRANGE WORLD



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Long ago, a great explorer named Jaeger Clade took his son, Searcher, on a quest to find what lay beyond the mountain.
Disappointed, Jaeger continued his journey alone.

Years passed, and Jaeger never returned from his quest. Pando, the glowing plant that Searcher had found in the mountains, grew into a massive tree. Searcher and his wife, Meridian, enjoyed their quiet life on the Pando farm. Their son, Ethan, liked to help harvest Pando's fruit. Searcher hoped Ethan would take over the farm one day. But Ethan wasn't sure he shared that dream. For now, he wanted to explore the world beyond the mountains.

One day, the Pando crops across Avalonia started to die. The leader of Avalonia arrived in a huge airship called the *Venture*. Ethan begged to go, too, but Searcher told him it was too dangerous. Searcher was sad to disappoint his son, but he needed

stowed away

... the *Venture* lurched sideways. Dozens of winged beasts were attacking the ship!

As the airship plummeted, Searcher and Ethan braced for impact. Meridian saw that the *Venture* was in trouble and jumped. The ship crashed through the ground and into a strange world. Searcher and Legend tumbled off the deck and landed safely.

Searcher gazed in awe at the unusual forest filled with even more unusual creatures. Suddenly, a blue blob snatched Searcher. *Whoosh!* A hairy monster chased the Reaper away with a flamethrower. The monster pulled off its mask. “Dad?” said Searcher.

Searcher had many questions for his father. But Jaeger had seen the airship crash-land, and he wanted to find it. He was so determined. As Jaeger hiked, Searcher followed, huffing and puffing—until Jaeger found a playing card on the ground. “That’s Ethan’s!”

Ethan had gone looking for his father. He met the blue blob carrying Searcher's bandanna. Ethan named the blob Splat. C
Instead, Splat led Ethan toward a large hive. Ethan found a crate of Pando pods nearby. Splat tried to pull Ethan back tow

Suddenly, Reapers spilled out of the hive! As the beasts surrounded Ethan, Splat tried to signal that Ethan was a friend, but
Just in time, Searcher and Jaeger arrived and drove the Reapers back.

When more Reapers attacked, Meridian zoomed into view. She had come looking for Ethan! "Get on!" she shouted, gunning

. . . and made it safely to the other side. When they entered a cave, Searcher saw a tangle of healthy Pando roots wrapped
Searcher kicked into action, firing a stream of Pando dust at the monsters until they began to drop, one by one.

Thinking of Splat, Ethan didn't want to hurt the creatures. Searcher reminded him that farmers must protect their crops from Searcher remembered the day he had told his own father "I'm not you." Was he pushing Ethan the way Jaeger had pushed

"This place is alive!"

Pando was killing this animal!

rode on the back of a winged creature

Ethan and Splat summoned the Reapers as Searcher dug into the Pando root. A bolt of energy knocked Searcher off his feet. "Let's get to work," he told Searcher.

With one final strike, they exposed the root's delicate insides. Lightning struck both men, who fell to the ground while Reapers

When Searcher opened his eyes, he heard the thump-thump of an enormous pounding heart.

The animal was alive, thanks to him and Jaeger.

It was time to return home. But first, Searcher wanted to show Jaeger the world beyond the mountains.

Jaeger sighed happily as he gazed out at the vast sea. The large eye stared up at the family, and they stared back. The Clad

A year later, Avalonia had become a very different city. The townspeople now relied on the wind and sun to power their homes. And Ethan was following his own path—not his father's and not his grandfather's. He was exploring in his very own way . . .

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